



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

Sumter County's proud African-American heritage has given many gifts to this nation.

From the humble backcountry settlement to today's progressive, patriotic community. Agriculture, sports, education, government, and military on a national scale bear the indelible imprint of people of color who called Sumter and the surrounding areas home.

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Sumter and the surrounding areas were home to countless African-Americans that shaped our history. Among these remarkable people are:

- Tuskegee Airmen J. Philip Rembert, Leroy Bowman, Willie Ashley, and Emmett Rice, who dared the skies as heroes in World War II;
- Mary McLeod Bethune, a child of formerly enslaved people, who became a renowned educator, traveling from Mayesville's cotton fields to the White House;
- Bill Pinkney of the Drifters, the WWII veteran whose talents brought Carolina "Beach Music" to the world, helping to define an era;
- Prominent voices for Civil Rights, including James Felder, James McCain, Ernest Finney, Jr., Dora McDonald, and others;
- Basketball Hall of Famer Ray Allen, Superbowl champion Freddie Solomon of the San Francisco 49ers, and 2020 NBA Rookie of the Year, Ja Morant.

Visit Sumter, and explore the places that gave birth to greatness. Enjoy exhibits and works of art that clarify our connections to the past. Travel the roads that led to respect and prosperity for the people of Sumter's African-American community.



For a full list of historic sites & markers, visit us online at [LoveSumter.com](https://www.LoveSumter.com) or call the Sumter Convention & Visitors Bureau at (803) 436-2640.